

# A partisan affair: Mapping patronage in municipal bureaucracies of Brazil

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## **Abstract**

How extensive is patronage in Brazil? What are the differences in observables between partisan affiliates and non-partisan members? Leveraging a novel dataset of partisan affiliation and employment data on every municipal bureaucrat in Brazil, I find that party members are more likely to be overcompensated than their peers, concentrating in areas of executive leadership, while being less educated than their peers. In addition, their employment spells tend to be more durable over time, leading to negative consequences. These findings provide raise important questions regarding the duration of partisan ties and its consequences for local bureaucracies.

# **1 Introduction**

How does

Literature on patronage and selection: Robinson and Verdier (2013). Extant literature on selection of public officials have primarily focused on who becomes a politician Dal Bó et al. (2017). There remains unanswered questions regarding who enters the bureaucracy, what types of employment they held, and what are the differential compensations among public officials.

In this paper, I leverage micro-level partisan information with employment data to assess the degree to which there are differential compensation structures and differences in observables among partisan and non-partisan. What I find is that the benefits of public sector employment do not accrue to poorer voters. Rather

## **2 Context and Data**

## **3 Empirical strategy**

## **4 Conclusion**

## References

- Dal Bó, Ernesto, Frederico Finan, Olle Folke, Torsten Persson and Johanna Rickne. 2017. “Who becomes a politician?” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132(4):1877–1914.
- Robinson, James A and Thierry Verdier. 2013. “The political economy of clientelism.” *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 115(2):260–291.